Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/902,420	HILLA ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Jennifer N. To	2195	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _31 March 2006_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-20_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-20_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-20 are pending for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin

et al. (hereafter Lin) (U.S. Publication No. 20020073211), in view of Wolff (U.S. Patent

No. 6886035), and further in view of Jeddeloh et al. (hereafter Jeddeloh) (U.S. Patent

No. 6330647).

3.   Lin and Wolff were cited in the previous office action.

4.   As per claim 1, Lin teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a

load balancing system for distributing tasks to processor resources of a processor pool

(paragraphs 31-32), the system comprising:

a memory with a region organized into at least one memory block, each memory

block configured to store session (figs. 3, 5; paragraph 38);

an interface for coupling the memory to the processor resource, whereby the

processor resource accesses the at least one memory block to update information

associated with the session (figs. 1, 3,4, paragraphs 38, 43); and

an access monitor coupled to the interface, wherein the access monitor

recognizes, tracks, and collects statistics associated with the session (fig. 3; paragraphs

46-47, 65).

Lin did not specifically teach recognizes and tracks memory cycles associated

with the at least one memory block during a specified period of time; and a central

resource arranged to receive the statistics from the access monitor, and in response

thereto, to assign tasks to the processor resource.

5.   However, Wolff teaches recognizes and tracks memory cycles associated with

the at least one memory block during a specified period of time (figs. 2A-3B; col. 11,

lines 25-43; col. 12, lines 1-10); and a central resource arranged to receive the statistics

from the access monitor, and in response thereto, to assign tasks to the processor

resource (figs. 2B-3A; col. 12, lines 1-57).

6.   It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have combined the teaching of Lin and Wolff because Wolff

teaching of recognizes and tracks memory cycles associated with the at least one

memory block during a specified period of time; and a central resource arranged to

receive the statistics from the access monitor, and in response thereto, to assign tasks to the processor resource would improve the integrity of Lin's system by removing the bottlenecks and disadvantages associated with current distributed networks (Wolff, col. 2, lines 25-26).

7.   Lin and Wolff did not specifically teach passively monitor, and snooping memory address and control lines.

8.   However, Jeddeloh teaches passively monitor, and snooping memory address and control lines (abstract; col. 1, lines 63-67; col. 4, lines 59-67; col. 5, lines 1-30).

9.   It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teaching of Lin, Wolff, and Jeddeloh, because Jeddeloh teaching of passively monitor, and snooping memory address and control lines would improve the integrity of Lin and Wolff's system by providing a memory access control technique that efficiently services requestors issuing multiple access transactions without denying access to those requestors issuing single access transactions and/or low priority requesters for unacceptably long time (Jeddeloh, col. 1, lines 47-51).

10.   As per claim 2, Lin teaches the logic for recognizing a new session and designating a memory block for that session (fig. 5, paragraphs 44, 47).

11.   As per claim 3, Lin teaches:

memory address logic that recognizes address fields defining the memory blocks

(fig.5);

a session table with activity information entries associated with each session

(page 5, paragraph 44).

Woff teaches a memory logic that recognizes memory cycles being executed on

the memory blocks (fig. 14; col. 64, lines 8-47).

12.   As per claim 4, Jeddedloh teaches the access monitor is embodied as an

application specific integrated circuit (figs. 2-3).

13.   As per claim 5, Lin teaches that when the specified period of time elapses, the

session table is clear (fig. 9, paragraphs 66-67).

14.   As per claims 6-20, they are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1-5 above.

Response to Arguments

15.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

16.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Mundy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6779034), Mundy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6317792),

and Carter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5913043) teach resource usage/access monitoring.

Ishida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5572701), Lenzt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5261106),

and Fischer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6438672) teach snooping memory address and

control lines.

17.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

18.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer N. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-7212. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 6AM- 3:30 PM, F 6AM- 2:30 PM.

19.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

20.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197.(toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jennifer N. To
Examiner
Art Unit 2195

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